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Senate

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. LEAHY).

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Eternal God, who restores peace in human hearts, thank You for Your many blessings. Guide our lawmakers so that they will discern Your purposes and become instruments of Your providence. Today, help them to speak words that will leave them without regret. May they play their part in these momentous times so that their labors will withstand the scrutiny of history and the judgment of posterity. May Your Spirit rule in our lives, teaching us to sacrifice our comforts for the good of others. Use us today as ambassadors of Your will.

We pray in Your majestic Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The President pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

BANK ON STUDENTS EMERGENCY LOAN REFINANCING ACT—MOTION TO PROCEED

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I move to proceed to Calendar No. 409, S. 2432.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report the motion.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

Motion to proceed to Calendar No. 409, S. 2432, a bill to amend the Higher Education

Act of 1965 to provide for the refinancing of certain Federal student loans, and for other purposes.

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, following my remarks, the Senate will be in recess subject to the call of the Chair for the joint meeting with the President of Ukraine.

When the Senate reconvenes, it will be in a period of morning business until 1 p.m., with the time equally divided and controlled between the two leaders or their designees. The Republicans will control the first half and the majority will control the final half.

At 1 p.m. the Senate will proceed to the consideration of H.J. Res. 124, the continuing resolution. There will be up to 4½ hours of debate prior to a series of rollcall votes followed by several voice votes on executive nominations. Senators should expect the votes to begin around 5 p.m.

TRIBUTE TO JERRY LINNELL

Mr. President, in ancient Greece the keeping of history was considered so important that Clio, daughter of Zeus, was believed responsible for recording all that occurred on Earth—everything.

In the Senate we don't have Greek gods in charge of keeping our records, but we do rely on the superhuman efforts of a group of official reporters who transcribe every word we say. It is a hard, hard job. Official reporters have to accustom their ears to all sorts of accents from across our country, find ways to spell newly invented words, try to listen to what I don't say very loudly, and all the other issues they have to deal with, and they have to suffer through talking filibusters. In fact, they may be the only people who dislike filibusters more than I do.

Today I recognize just one of those hard-working official reporters—the chief reporter of debates of the Senate Jerry Linnell, who is retiring at the end of this month. For 32 years Jerry has been a staple here in the Senate,

ensuring that the words of Senators past and present are correctly recorded for the American people. While he has been here, he has witnessed many events. He has seen five different Presidents occupy the White House, worked with eight different majority leaders, transcribed speeches on everything from the Berlin Wall to Senator Byrd's legendary lectures on the history of the Senate.

I wish Jerry all the best in his well-deserved retirement. I have no doubt that he and his wife Jane will keep busy spending time with their 7 children and 11 grandchildren. And, of course, Jerry will have his Washington Nationals to follow.

It has been a pleasant respite for me to spend time with Jerry talking about baseball. He takes trips around the country that make me so envious—watching different teams in different stadiums. I think he has watched a baseball game in almost every Major League Baseball stadium in America, and I am very envious of that.

The Senate is a better place because of Jerry's 32 years here. I, along with every other Member of this body, thank Jerry for his many years of service.

CONTINUING RESOLUTION

Mr. President, yesterday the House of Representatives passed a continuing resolution to keep our government from shutting down for the next 3 months. In addition to keeping the government operating, this measure includes provisions important to our national security, such as funding to combat ISIS—an evil organization—by training and equipping vetted Syrian opposition forces and aid to fight the spread of Ebola.

It is not perfect; that is for sure. But no legislation is. In this era of radical ideologies and endless obstruction, the funding resolution before us is infinitely better than the alternatives—another shutdown of our government.

I think it speaks volumes that Speaker BOEHNER, Leader PELOSI, the

• This “buller” symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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